THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Allocation to Andhra Pradesh Under LAY

2076. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary allocation for IAY during 1996-97; and

(b) the amount earmarked for Andhra Pradesh during the same period?-

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Rs. 1140 crores as Central allocation udner India Awas Yojana have been so for allocated to various States/UTs during 1996-97.

(b) The Central allocation for Andhra Pradesh under Indira Awas Yojand during 1996-97 is Rs. 88.70 crores.

Budgetary support to Science Education

2077. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of science and technology be pleased to state:

(a) whether decline in funding for scientific research is widening the gap between India and the West in frontier areas of science, as observed by the 84th Indian Science Congress held recently;

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to ensure that the situation is not worsened due to short-sighted policies; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase budgetary support to science education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. India's contribution to frontier areas of Science has been significant. It has been observed in the 84th Session of the Indian Science Congress that in order to do competitive Research and Development, India has to increase its R & D funding, the Plan allocations for Science and Technology have been substantially increased during the 8th Plan (1992—97) period over the 7th Plan Period.

(c) Support for Science Education in the budgets of States/Union Territories is included in the budgetary provisions for the University and Higher Education and Technical Education. The allocation on this account in the Budgets of States and Centre has been on the rise. Ministry of Human Resources Development has also a programme specifically for improvement of Science Education at school levels and the expenditure under this scheme is also on the increase.

Setting up of Commercial Genetic Testing and Counselling Units

2078. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted permission to Pro Gene Inc., USA, to set up a chain of commercial genetic testing and counselling units in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete measures taken by Government against all sorts of misuse of the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The Government